(c) whether Government would adopt any policy for providing re-employment to lakhs of people who will turn jobless due to closure of small scale industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how many small scale industries are closed in the city of Thane (Maharashtra) and measures taken by Govenrment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATS-TICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) 178 SSI units in Thane are reported to be closed. There exists an elaborate mechanism for identification and rehabilitation of sick SSI units, including the State-level Inter Institutional Committees constituted by the Reserve Bank of India. RBI has issued detailed guidelines for providing assistance to potentially viable sick units, which, inter alia, includes reschedulement of loans, need based additional finance, etc. Government of Maharashtra has constituted District-level Sick Unit Rehabilitation Committees under the Chairmanship of the District Collector. Units meeting sickness criteria prescribed by RBI can approach the Sick Unit Rehabilitation Committee for rehabilitation assistance. As reported by the State Government, none of the closed units in Thane have so far approached the Committee for their revival.

Investment ceiling for Industrial Instruments

†1673. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investment ceiling for industrial instruments in the small scale industries was upto one crore rupees and the same has been increased upto three crore rupees, and whether Prime Minister ever declared to withdraw the provision of increase in the investment ceiling;

(b) if so, when and where such declaration was made;

(c) the hindrance in the implementation of the said declaration; and

(d) by when this hindrance would be removed and whether some multinational companies have also got themselves registered under the S.S.I, units after raising the ceiling upto three crore rupees; if so, the names of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUS-TREIS AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (d) The investment ceiling for SSI units was raised to Rs. 300 lakh from Rs. 60 lakh on December 11, 1997. Govemment have decided to reduce the SSI investment limit to Rs. IGO lakh, which was also announced by the Prime Minister at the Laghu Udyog Bharati Function held on 21.8.1999. Notification to that effect is being issued.

As per the legal provisions governing SSI definition, other industrial undertakings, including foreign companies, are not permitted to invest beyond 24% in the equity of an SSI unit. In the event of such investment exceeding 24% the unit concerned shall have to forego its SSI status. Accordingly, other industrial undertakings, including multinational companies, are not eligible to get themselves registered as an SSI unit nor can they claim SSI Status.

Representation from the Government of Kerala Regarding MEP for Coir Products

1674. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI CO. POULOSE:
SHRI J. CHITHARANIAN:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment received any representation from the Government of Kerala requesting for retaining the Minimum Export Price Fixed for 1997 for coir and coir products?

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by Govemment; tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.